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From: Patterson, Kenneth
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 9:47:20 PM
Subject: Please read re: Gold King Mine Release in Colorado

Dear OECA Colleagues:

ACTION ITEM: Rather than trying to respond, please direct any calls you receive from anyone -- *except a member of the press* -- regarding the Gold King Mine/Animas River release to the EPA website: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>.

The website contains not only the latest information, but also a toll-free hotline, information about claims, and a place to enter comments.

Please instruct any member of the press to email *press@epa.gov*.

BACKGROUND: As you no doubt know, a release of millions of gallons of contaminated water occurred onsite at the Gold King Mine last week, with the initial impact into the Animas River. In coordination with the effected States, Tribes and localities, EPA is leading a widespread effort to address the release, from its origins near Durango and Silverton, Colorado to locations in New Mexico, Utah and the Navajo Reservation.

OECA is coordinating with the Regions 6, 8 and 9, OGC and OSWER on the response to the emergency. I have been asked to be the lead contact in OECA, and will be coordinating with Loren Denton and others in OCE-WED, or elsewhere in OECA as needed. John Senn, OECA's Deputy Communications Director, is on temporary duty in the Emergency Operations Center to help staff the team working to address the Gold King Mine release.

Calls have been coming into Headquarters from citizens who have been effected by the release, attorneys and others. It is important that the public receive the most accurate and up-to-date information about the response. That information can be found on the website cited above, and thus any callers should be directed there.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Ken

Kenneth W. Patterson, Director

Regional Support Division

Office of Site Remediation Enforcement

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

U.S. EPA

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